

**NAVAIR LAKEHURST NEWS RELEASE
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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NAVAIR Lakehurst Awards Contract To New Jersey Natural Gas Company

August 22; LAKEHURST, NJ – NAVAIR Lakehurst officials announced that they have awarded a contract to the New Jersey Natural Gas Company (NJNG) to construct a main gas line extension of 23,600 feet from NJNG's Pressure Regulator Station on Route 547 to the base's Power Plant #2. The total amount of the contract, including construction costs is \$1 million.

Converting from fuel oil and propane to natural gas will pay huge dividends for NAVAIR Lakehurst, both economically and environmentally. The natural gas conversion will enable the demolition and removal of a 190,000-gallon fuel oil storage tank and related containment structures. It will also eliminate the environmental risk of oil spills and significantly reduce boiler stack emissions to the atmosphere. Numerous 500-gallon propane tanks located around the base will be eliminated as well.

Maintenance costs will also be greatly reduced for NAVAIR Lakehurst. With fuel oil, boilers had to be stack tested every two years at a cost of \$50-65,000 per test. Any violations discovered during stack testing would result in fines, downtime for repairs and the costs of re-testing. Natural gas only requires testing every five years for high-pressure boilers and eliminates the need for testing of low-pressure boilers. NAVAIR Lakehurst's savings in time, money and mission capability by converting to the cleaner and more efficient natural gas will be substantial.

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The natural gas line will also service areas of the base designed for future development. Several pending initiatives by the U.S. Army, U.S. Air Force and the Department of Justice will benefit by the new utility. In addition, the New Jersey Army National Guard (NJARNG) has proposed consolidating helicopter operations at NAVAIR Lakehurst. The presence of natural gas at their site will enable the installation and operation of efficient and economical heating plants in their multi-building scheme, saving the National Guard and the state utilities and maintenance costs.

Another NJARNG project, the Consolidated Logistics & Training Facility (CL&TF), is proposed for construction at the base by 2004. Several hundred tanks, armored, tracked and other military vehicles will be stationed at the facility. It will serve as a regional training center for the National Guard. The NJ Natural Gas Company will be contracted by the National Guard to extend gas service to the CL&TF site upon completion of the main line extension to Power Plant #2. These two utility system projects will result in natural gas availability at virtually all sites at NAVAIR Lakehurst.

Engineering design and preparation are already underway for the Power Plant #2 gas line. The project is scheduled for completion at NAVAIR Lakehurst by April 2003.